

Veterans Affairs building 6 new cemeteries

With a recent authorization to establish six new national cemeteries by 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs has begun the largest expansion of these national shrines since the Civil War.

The National Cemetery Act of 2003 authorizes VA to establish new national cemeteries to serve veterans in the areas of

- ★ Bakersfield, Calif.;
- ★ Birmingham, Ala.;
- ★ Jacksonville, Fla.;
- ★ Sarasota County, Fla.;
- ★ southeastern Pennsylvania; and
- ★ Columbia-Greenville, S.C.

All six areas have veteran populations exceeding 170,000, which is the threshold VA has established for new national cemeteries.

Each new cemetery will require 200 to 250 acres to serve the current and future burial needs of veterans. Development of these new national cemeteries will provide more veterans with a burial site within 75 miles of their residences.

VA manages the country's network of national cemeteries with more than 2.5 million gravesites at 120 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices or from VA Web sites at www.va.gov or www.cem.va.gov.

OF NOTE

BLOOD DRIVES

★ Kirtland AFB drives

United Blood Services conducts blood drives on Kirtland AFB.

Call 768-1408.

Upcoming drives are at:

★ Sandia Labs **every Tuesday**, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.;

★ Space and Missile Systems Center Detachment 12, **Feb. 19**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Bloodmobile, in front of Building 414;

★ Air Force Research Laboratory, **Feb. 19**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Bloodmobile, in front of Building 497 corner of Carlisle and Aberdeen;

★ Nuclear Weapons Directorate, **Feb. 19**, 7:30 a.m.-11 a.m., Bloodmobile behind Building 20325;

★ Veterans Affairs Medical Center, **Feb. 24**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Spinal Cord Training Room 1083 in the Spinal Cord Injury Building.

BRIEFINGS

★ Suicide prevention

All mandatory Suicide Prevention training is in the theater on:

- ★ March 3, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.; March 18, 7 a.m.
- ★ April 9, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
- ★ May 26, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
- ★ June 9, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.; June 23, 7 a.m.
- ★ July 13, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
- ★ Aug. 11, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
- ★ Sept. 16, 7 a.m.; Sept. 29, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
- ★ Oct. 13, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.; Oct. 21, 7 a.m.
- ★ Nov. 3, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.; Nov. 23, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
- ★ Dec. 8, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.; Dec. 16, 7 a.m.; Dec. 22, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.

CLOSINGS

★ Street closing

On **Feb. 17**, the 7th Street corridor, between Club Road and East Sandia Circle, closes permanently. This closure supports housing privatization demolition and construction activities.

Contact Joseph Lujan at 846-6703.

★ Contracting down

The contract writing system used by 377th Contracting Squadron will be down **Feb. 18-29** for an upgrade.

Known requirements must be submitted through the system to interface no later than **today**.

Contact your servicing acquisition flight for emergencies.

Point of contacts are Fred Marsh at 846-2992; Susan McDaniel at 846-4190 and Sharron Szpunar 846-5680.

★ Grind closed

The Daily Grind is closed **today**. It reopens **Feb. 20**, 7 p.m.

EDUCATION

★ ACSC version 4

With the introduction of Air Command and Staff College version 4, Air Command and Staff College Seminars may now start at any time of the year, which essentially makes them group studies.

There is no minimum group size as long as there are three or more people who want to start a seminar. Attendance is neither tracked nor reported. Enrollment is for 18 months although the seminar is suggested for 10.5 months as a way to push all participants to complete testing and exercise requirements.

Students wishing to conduct a seminar will decide on their own seminar leader, find a meeting place, set date and time for meetings and provide seminar information to the Education Office and the Air Command and Staff College office.

Eligibility criteria are, military in all branches of the service, active, Guard or Reserve grade 0-4 and above. Civilians must be GS-11 or above or equivalent.

If you have any questions, please contact the Education Center at 846-9933 or 846-8955.

★ CLEP Exams

Education Office testing center will reintroduce 14 of the most popular CLEP exams **April 1**.

Six CLEP exams will be available on base until April 1: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, English Literature, American Literature, Educational Psychology, and French. These six exams will not be available on base after **March 31**.

For scheduling call 846-8955.

★ SAT offered

The Education Center offers the SAT **Feb. 24**, 9 a.m., room 116B, Building 20602C.

The test is free one time only to members of all military services, including active duty, Reserve and Guard.

Register for the test at the Education Center and receive a sample test and registration bulletin. Call 856-9933 or 846-8955.

★ Text books

In an effort to expand the Learning Resource Center library collection, the Distance Learning Center needs donations of books, videos, magazines or other resources in the following categories:

- ★ Home schooling (texts for all ages, project ideas, magazines geared toward, etc.)
- ★ Teacher resources
- ★ Children with special needs
- ★ Parenting
- ★ Foreign language
- ★ Cultural anthropology
- ★ Theology
- ★ Criminal justice or law
- ★ Medical
- ★ Drugs (legal or illegal)
- ★ Computers
- ★ History, especially World War II and Vietnam Era
- ★ Music theory or art
- ★ Anything military

The last Distance Learning Center book drive resulted in donations of over 500 books.

Call Circe Olson Woessner, 846-1748 or Richard Hammond, 846-1920.

EVENTS

★ Mandatory PT

There is a mandatory 377th Mission Support Group physical training session in conjunction with February's Wing Training Day.

The physical training session is Feb. 19, 3-4 p.m., at Hardin Field. Everyone is to be present by 2:45 p.m.

The training is mandatory for all military members assigned to any squadron or division in the group.

Civilians may attend.

★ 58th SOW awards ball

The 58th Special Operations Wing has its annual awards ball, **Feb. 20**, 6 p.m., in the Mountain View Club.

The cost is \$17 for members and \$19 for others.

The menu includes garden salad with house dressing, stuffed chicken and sirloin of beef with supreme sauce, red skin roasted rosemary potatoes, green beans almandine, rolls and butter, coffee and tea, and cake.

Wing first sergeants have tickets

OF NOTE

★ African-American Heritage

African-American Heritage Month Luncheon is Feb. 18, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Mountain View Club.

The theme this year is "Creating & Defining the African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics & Culture."

The guest speaker is Judge Angela J. Jewell, district court judge, Second Judicial District Court, Domestic Violence Division of the Family Court in Albuquerque.

The menu is, oven fried chicken, ribs, green beans, fried sweet potatoes, rolls, salad, ice tea, coffee and peach cobbler.

For Tickets call Master Sgt. Dave Talley, 846-1817 or Master Sgt. Raymond Nivens, 846-9541.

★ Inspection banquet

The annual awards banquet recognizing members of the Air Force Inspection Agency is March 12, 6 p.m., at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel.

The banquet theme is "Celebrating a Century of Air and Space Excellence: Making the Best Better." Past and present AFIA members are invited.

Social begins at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Dress for military is semiformal or mess dress and for civilians is evening dress or coat and tie.

Tickets are \$25 a person.

For reservations by March 3, contact Capt. David Pena at 846-2002.

★ Masquerade Ball

The Kirtland Officers' Spouses' Club's masquerade ball and silent auction is March 6 in the Mountain View Club. Social hour is at 6 p.m. followed by dinner of chicken or fillet of salmon. The event is open to

everyone with valid access to the base.

DJ music for dancing follows dinner. A photographer is available for picture of people in their masks and costumes. A costume contest will decide the ball king and queen.

Although costumes are not required, they are encouraged. Dress without a costume should be coat and tie or equivalent dress for military.

Bring your own mask or buy one at the door for \$5 or \$10 at the door.

On site childcare by donation, that includes pizza and cookies for children, is provided by the chapel youth organization. Call Amy, 836-3679 before March 4.

To order your tickets now, call Ginger, 899-2416 or George, 266-3764.

★ Women's Heritage

Kirtland AFB needs a project officer to spearhead Women's Heritage Month Celebration activities in March 2004.

The theme for this year's observances is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility."

Anyone interested in leading this long-standing tradition of

recognizing greater freedom of choice for women, and in celebrating the wide range of women's contributions and achievements, contact either Barbara Powelson or Solomon Starks, at 846-5369.

This is a great opportunity to actively bring forth awareness and promotion of the integration of women into all levels of government, commensurate with their abilities and aspirations. These activities also promote opportunities for recruitment, selection, training and advancement of women in all realms.

★ Wild Weasel

While construction continues on its museum and visitor's center, the New Mexico Veterans Memorial will conduct its monthly guest lecture series at the

Kirtland Federal Credit Union.

This month, retired Lt. Col. Paul L. Chesley will discuss the Wild Weasel program.

A "Wild Weasel" is an aircraft that launches missiles that home in on an anti-aircraft radar system if it is turned on for more than a few seconds. The Wild Weasel uses the radar's own signal to find and destroy it.

The free lecture will be given at 10:30 a.m., Feb. 14, in the credit union located at the corner of Gibson and Louisiana.

★ Race for the Cure

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's annual 5-kilometer run and walk is June 13, at the Balloon Fiesta Park. Teams are being organized and units or individuals interested in sponsorship or participation should contact Gary Schancer in the Health and Wellness Center, 846-1186 or gary.schancer@kirtland.af.mil or Julia Roesenberg at roeseberg@mac.com.

Registration forms will be available for pickup at the Health and Wellness Center.

Questions regarding the Race for the Cure may be answered by going to www.nmracefortheure.com or contacting Ms. Roesenberg.

★ Technology Expo

The free 10th Annual Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Information Technology Expo will take place at the Coronado Club, Feb. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Over 40 technology exhibitors will be on hand demonstrating the latest in information assurance, security solutions, advanced software solutions, notebooks, mobile solutions, desktops, peripherals, imaging, storage, and much more.

To preregister and be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a door prize; visit www.fedpage.com (preregistration is not required).

For more information call 800-878-2940 ext. 207 or e-mail lindsay@fbcd.db.com.

FAMILY SUPPORT

★ Federal jobs

Federal Jobs Application Preparation Workshop is Feb. 18, 5:30-8 p.m., in the Family Support Center.

Call 846-0741 to register.

★ New spouses

Heart Link Spouse Orientation is available by appointment at the Family Support Center.

The briefing for spouses new to the military, is a one-on-one presentation about everything you should know about life in the military.

Register at 846-0741.

★ Pre-deployment brief

Pre-deployment briefings are offered at the Family Support Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and on Thursdays at 5 p.m.

Contact Master Sgt. C. Lloyd McKenzie, 853-1704 to be scheduled.

★ Checkbook care

Checkbook Maintenance Workshop is Feb. 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Family Support Center.

This class covers the basics of opening, maintaining, and balancing checkbooks, including how to reconcile a checkbook with the bank statement.

Call 846-0741 to register.

★ Sponsor training

Sponsor Training is Feb. 24, 10-11 a.m. in the Family Support Center.

Sponsors are the commander's ambassador to newcomers to Kirtland AFB.

The Family Support Center has the tools and information to make the job as a sponsor easy and beneficial.

Sponsors should register 4-5 months before the new family comes to Kirtland AFB so they can help them settle into their new assignment and local community.

Call 846-0741 to register.